

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**

CONSENT AGENDA  
ITEM NO. **20**

**SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT**

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Health

**THROUGH** Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

**COPIES TO:** Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant to the City Manager; City Attorney's Office; Office of Management and Budget, Risk Management Division; Finance Department; Project; File

**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FRUIT AND NUT SURVEY PHASE II

**DATE:** May 8, 2003

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement not to exceed \$51,000.00 with Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) to conduct the Fruit and Nut Survey Phase II: Assessment of Homegrown Produce for Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Contamination in connection with the Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH), which is operated by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) and funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) for the purpose of investigating, assessing and otherwise addressing environmental health concerns related to potential environmental exposures to former Kelly Air Force Base (KAFB) employees and the community for the period May 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003, and authorizes payments for contractual services.

Staff recommends approval.

**BACKGROUND**

The Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH), which is a program operated by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) and funded by the Department of Defense (DoD), investigates, assesses and otherwise addresses environmental health concerns related to potential environmental exposures to former Kelly Air Force Base (KAFB) employees and the community.

The residents of the communities surrounding the former KAFB have expressed concerns that their homegrown produce may be contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The residents are requesting that a survey be conducted on spring, summer, and fall produce to include citrus, cactus, tomatoes, pecans, etc. Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) has developed and patented a blender and

a unique analytical method to detect and quantify VOCs. Because piercing the skin of the fruit sample allows potential VOCs to escape, SwRI uses a whole fruit sample processed in a method that does not let any VOCs escape. Once the sample is processed, it is heated and any existing VOCs will be trapped in the top of the blender and recorded. SwRI's patented method will maintain the integrity and control the quality of the homegrown produce samples taken within the KAFB area and surrounding community. With a small window of opportunity to collect prime quality samples, timing is critical now that spring has brought new vegetation growth. PCEH will conduct this survey to address concerns of residents within the community.

In the event that undesirable results occur, the process to secure a qualified professional service contractor to conduct a major scientific study will begin. This study will be funded by PCEH through funding from the DoD.

### **POLICY ANALYSIS**

This ordinance follows the City practice of utilizing Federal, State and other funds to provide public health services for the residents of our community.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

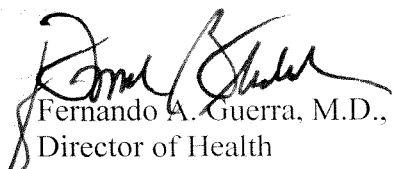
The total cost for this professional service is budgeted not to exceed \$51,000.00. This project will place no demands on the City General Fund.


### **COORDINATION**

The City Attorney's Office and the Office of Management and Budget, Risk Management Division have reviewed the proposed agreement with Southwest Research Institute. The Finance Department has been apprised of this action.


### **SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS**

Provisions of the Ethics Ordinance do not apply.

  
Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

  
Frances A. Gonzalez  
Assistant to the City Manager

APPROVED:

  
Terry M. Brechtel  
City Manager